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Sack Leakers, Bush Says; Robertson Would Seal Border

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By Paul Taylor
Washington Post Staff Writer

A NASHUA, N.H., March 14—Vice President Bush proposed today that, to plug intelligence leaks, Congress restrict itself to a single joint intelligence committee and that the Reagan administration "make some examples of leakers in our own ranks by publicly firing them."

"I don't believe in the wholesale use of the polygraph, but when legitimate national security matters are at stake, I say use it," Bush told several hundred northeastern Republican activists at a conference billed as "a weekend with the next president."

Needled in the local press for not joining six prospective 1988 opponents at a Friday night kickoff dinner ("Bushgate," said a Boston Herald headline; "GOP Hopefuls Meet Sans Bush" said the Manchester Union Leader), Bush ignored the mini-flap. The tactic drew plaudits from supporters.

"To me, he was very vice-presidential," said Victoria Zachos, a former national committeewoman from Concord. "People have been saying he's too wimpy. How can you be a wimp and be the former head of the CIA? I mean, really! It's impossible."

Bush said his 1976-77 duty as Central Intelligence Agency director came at the "tail end of a witch hunt that laid bare the agency's innermost secrets" and wound up costing the lives of some agents.

He chided "certain Democrats who act as if the CIA is an embarrassment or a threat or just another bureaucracy" and "some Republicans who are conspicuously silent in their support." He did not name names, and his political aides either could not or would not.

If the speech was meant to project a tough image on matters of national security, Bush had plenty of company.

Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) this morning called on all Republican

candidates—especially Bush—to "join me in pledging to deploy SDI [the Strategic Defense Initiative] as soon as possible so that America is no longer defenseless against incoming Soviet missiles."

Kemp said there is "a fierce debate going on in this administration between the president, who believes in deployment, and the State Department, which wants to use it as a bargaining chip." He said early deployment would be his "highest priority" as president and that the first phase could be operational by 1992.

"To those who say [SDI] is provocative," Kemp said, "that is the moral equivalent of saying that a policeman with a bulletproof vest somehow provokes criminals."

His exposition drew a rave review from Marion G. (Pat) Robertson, a fellow foreign-policy panelist, who told Kemp he was "superb."

The television evangelist echoed Kemp's enthusiasm for early SDI deployment, but he also made a

pitch for expanding conventional forces to guard against a scenario in which the Soviets move tanks into post-Khomeini Iran and try to achieve a "takeover of the strategic oil reserves of the world."

"We are going to have to think about projecting conventional forces"—Robertson mentioned "several divisions and the Seventh Fleet"—"into the Middle East to prevent such a scenario."

On another matter, Robertson proposed that the Mexican border "be closed" so that Hispanics already here—as well as blacks and whites—are better able to find jobs. He advocated beefing up the Border Patrol.

Former defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld, making his first appearance at a presidential "cattle show," also endorsed Kemp's call for early SDI deployment and said the two greatest threats to mankind are "nuclear war and appeasement." He called for a no-ransom antiterrorist policy. He also endorsed

"constructive engagement" in South Africa, saying that sanctions "are not in the interests of the blacks or of the United States."

Today's panel discussions were held without Senate Minority Leader Robert J. Dole (Kan.), who chose to leave before Bush arrived for star billing as the luncheon speaker. "Hey, if a guy gets a good deal, I say take it," said Dole. "I'd just like to know who his booking agent is."

Predictably, operatives for rival camps milled around the hotel lobby grumbling about Bush's Friday night absence. "He hurt himself; he's come off as aloof," said John Maxwell, a Kemp campaigner.

But the flap seems likely to be forgotten as quickly as it arose. Bush spent this afternoon meeting privately with party leaders, then taking questions in a supporter's living room—presumably to show he could be the "see me, touch me, feel me" candidate that New Hampshire Gov. John H. Sununu (R) said his constituents demand.